

WILLINGHAM AKINS PALMIOTTI

FABLES

NOV
NO. 29



featuring **DOG COMPANY & BIGBY WOLF**

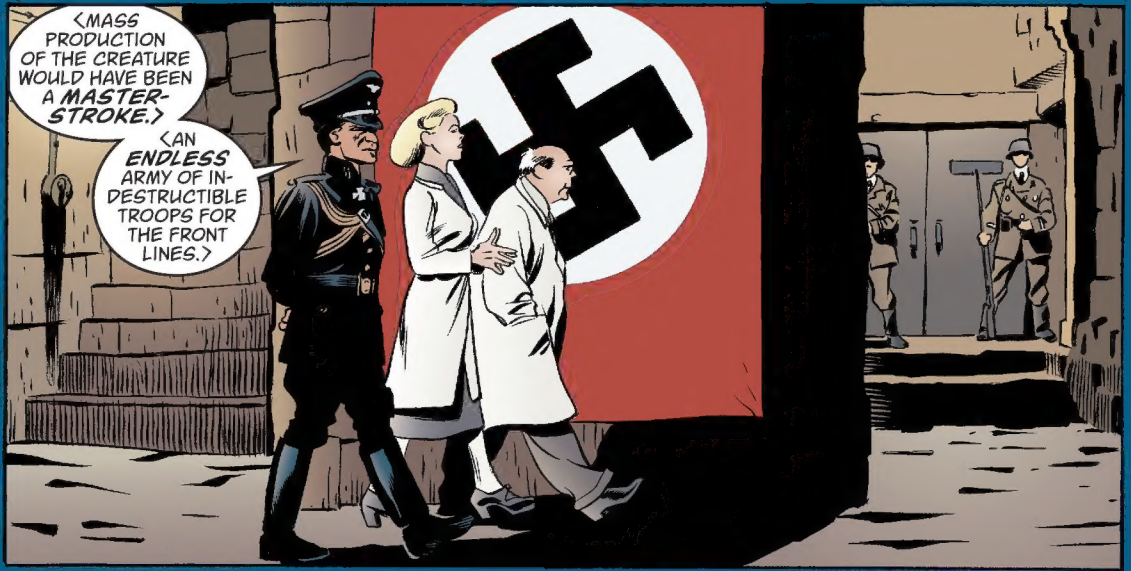
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<MASS PRODUCTION OF THE CREATURE WOULD HAVE BEEN A **MASTER-STROKE.**>

<AN **ENDLESS** ARMY OF IN-DESTRUCTIBLE TROOPS FOR THE FRONT LINES.>

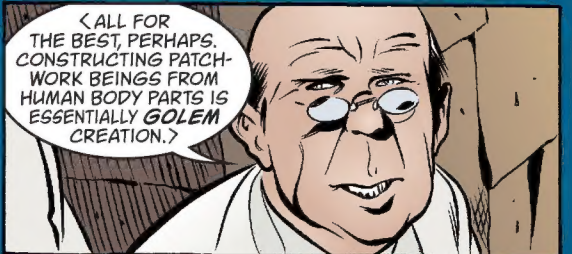


<ARE YOU **CERTAIN** IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, DOCTOR?>

<MY FATHER LED THE TEAM THAT TRIED IT IN THE LAST WAR, GENERAL. IT DIDN'T WORK THEN AND IT WON'T **NOW.**>



<FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE SECRETS OF DOCTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S PROCESS DIED **WITH HIM.**>

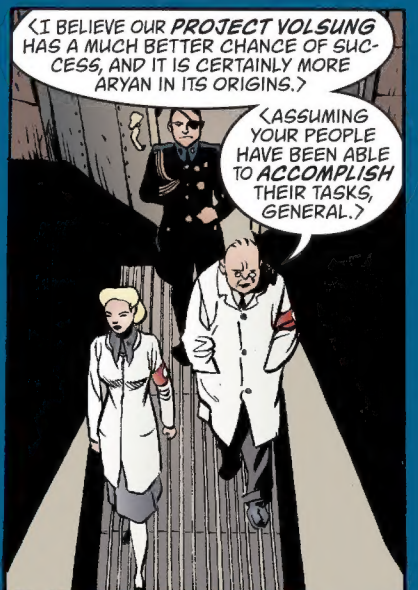


<ALL FOR THE BEST, PERHAPS. CONSTRUCTING PATCH-WORK BEINGS FROM HUMAN BODY PARTS IS ESSENTIALLY **GOLEM** CREATION.>



<A LONGTIME PRACTICE OF THE FILTHY JEWS, YES?>

<**HARDLY** A FIT UNDERTAKING FOR SCIENTISTS OF THE **MASTER RACE.**>



<I BELIEVE OUR **PROJECT VOLSUNG** HAS A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS, AND IT IS CERTAINLY MORE **ARYAN** IN ITS ORIGINS.>

<ASSUMING YOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO **ACCOMPLISH** THEIR TASKS, GENERAL.>

FRANKENSTEIN VERSUS THE WOLF MAN

War Stories,
Part Two

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editor

<WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN PART OF THE PROJECT, DOCTOR. MY MEN HAVE DONE EVERYTHING THAT IS REQUIRED.>

<THE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PLANTED WHERE THE ENEMY COULDN'T HELP BUT FIND IT.>

<TRANSMISSIONS WERE MADE IN CODES THAT WE KNOW THEY'VE BROKEN.>

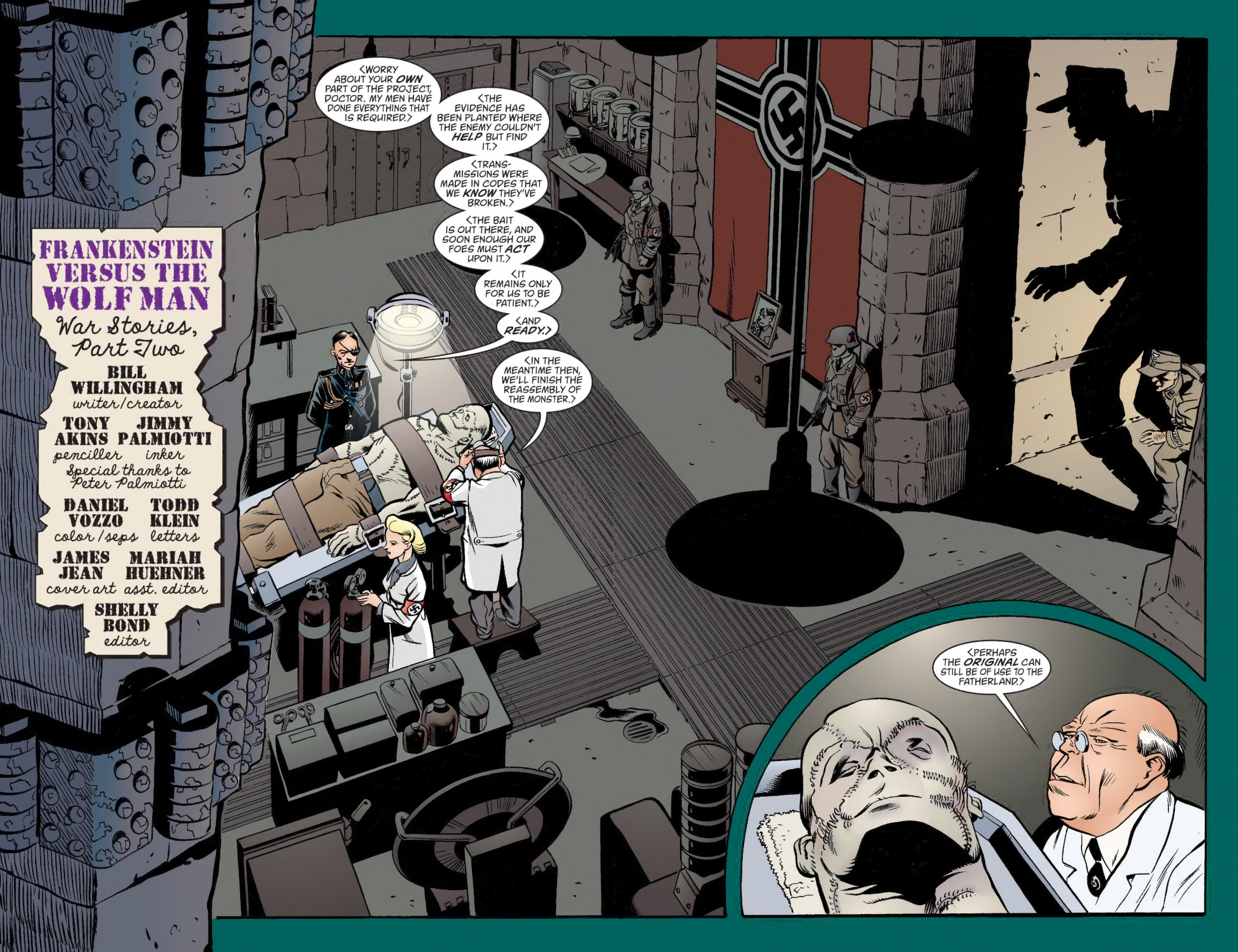
<THE BAIT IS OUT THERE, AND SOON ENOUGH OUR FOES MUST ACT UPON IT.>

<IT REMAINS ONLY FOR US TO BE PATIENT.>

<AND READY.>

<IN THE MEANTIME THEN, WE'LL FINISH THE REASSEMBLY OF THE MONSTER.>

<PERHAPS THE ORIGINAL CAN STILL BE OF USE TO THE FATHERLAND.>







<RUN FOR HELP! SUMMON THE SPECIAL DETACHMENT!>

<AND THEN SEARCH THE CASTLE! HE WILL HAVE COME WITH OTHER COMMANDOS!>



<WE HAVE TO SAVE THE CREATURE!>



<BACK OFF, DOCTOR!>

<WAIT YOUR TURN.>



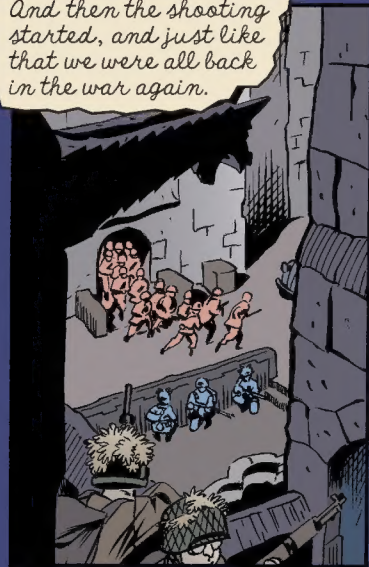
<I'LL GET TO YOU ONCE I FINISH DISMEMBERING THIS THING.>

<NO!>

I DO NOT THINK I WILL ALLOW THAT!



And then the shooting started, and just like that we were all back in the war again.



HERE THEY COME!



GIVE 'EM HELL!



We had good positions.



DUFFY! LOB SOME GRENADES RIGHT IN FRONT OF THAT DOORWAY!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T PLUG UP THEIR WAY IN.

I CAN DO THAT.



But they had us outgunned and outmanned.

CONCENTRATE ON YOUR WORK, ALPHABET, AND I'LL KEEP THE RIFRAFF OFF OF OUR BACKS.

ONE SHOT, ONE KILL, ZILMER.

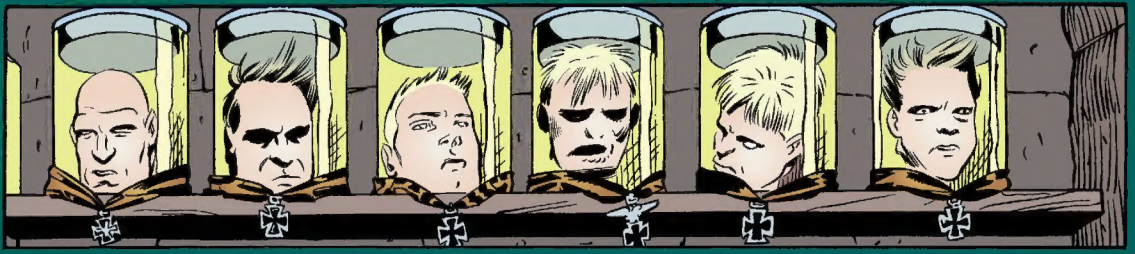


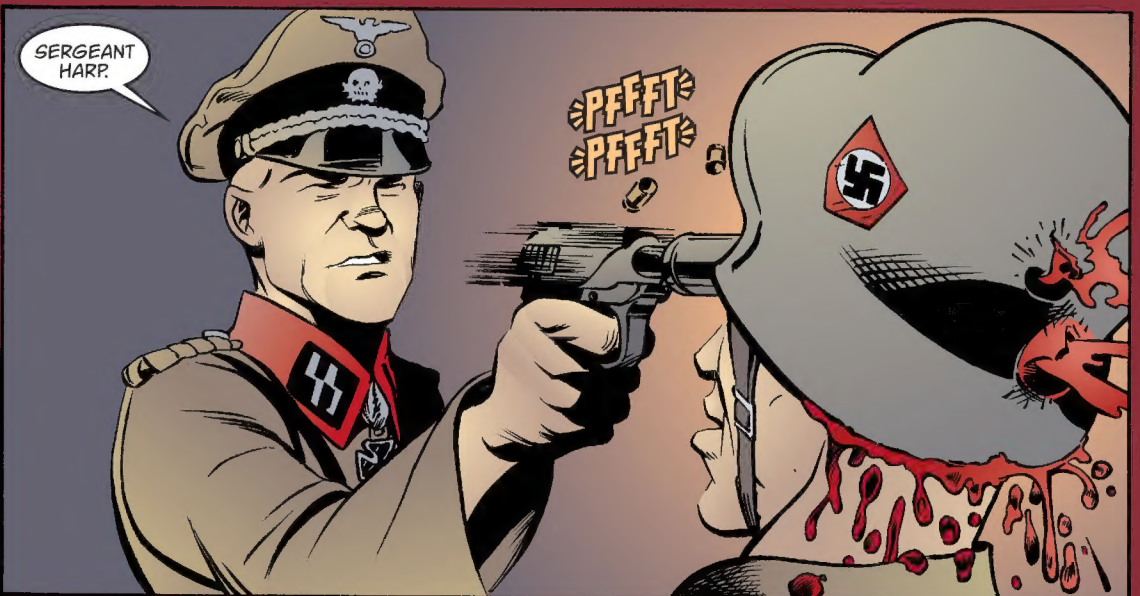
POUR IT INTO THEM, BAKER!

FISH IN A BARREL, SARGE.



Basically, we knew we were screwed.













<WHO'S NEXT?>

<QUITE IMPRESSIVE, WOLF MAN, BUT ULTIMATELY USELESS FOR YOU.>

<UNLIKE THE PREVIOUS GUARDS, THESE SOLDIERS ARE ARMED ENTIRELY WITH BULLETS OF PURE SILVER.>



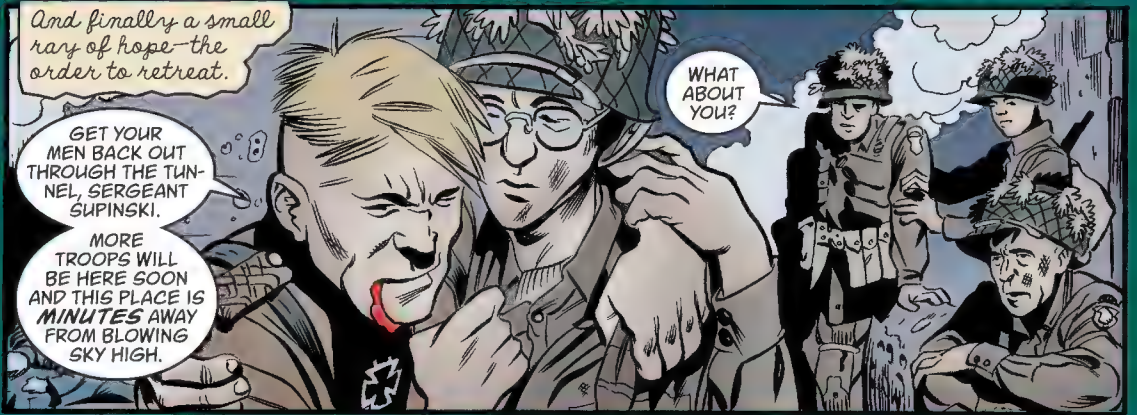
<DEADLY TO ONE SUCH AS YOU, YES?>

<SURRENDER TO ME NOW, OR DIE. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.>



<SURE, WHY NOT?>

<I GUESS I'VE DONE WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO.>



And finally a small ray of hope—the order to retreat.

GET YOUR MEN BACK OUT THROUGH THE TUNNEL, SERGEANT SUPINSKI.

MORE TROOPS WILL BE HERE SOON AND THIS PLACE IS MINUTES AWAY FROM BLOWING SKY HIGH.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?



We knew then we'd never see Harp again—not alive.



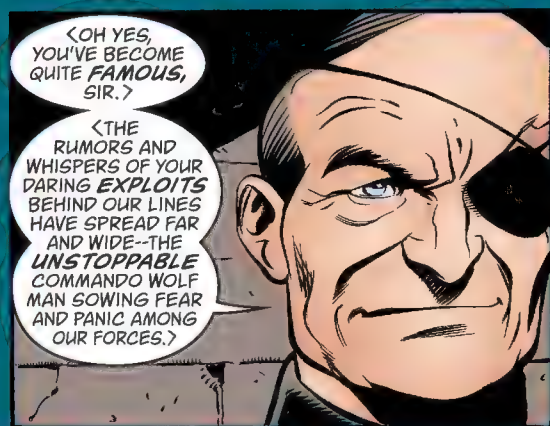
I'M GOING AFTER BIGBY. WE'LL FIND OUR OWN WAY OUT.

IF WE MAKE IT, WE'LL RENDEZVOUS WITH YOU BACK AT THE BURNED GASTHAUS.



<I
IMAGINE YOU'VE
DEDUCED BY NOW
THAT YOUR MISSION
WAS A **RUSE**, CREATED
BY US SPECIFICALLY
TO LURE YOU
HERE.>

<DO
TELL.>



<OH YES,
YOU'VE BECOME
QUITE **FAMOUS**,
SIR.>

<THE
RUMORS AND
WHISPERS OF YOUR
DARING **EXPLOITS**
BEHIND OUR LINES
HAVE SPREAD FAR
AND WIDE--THE
UNSTOPPABLE
COMMANDO WOLF
MAN SOWING FEAR
AND PANIC AMONG
OUR FORCES.>

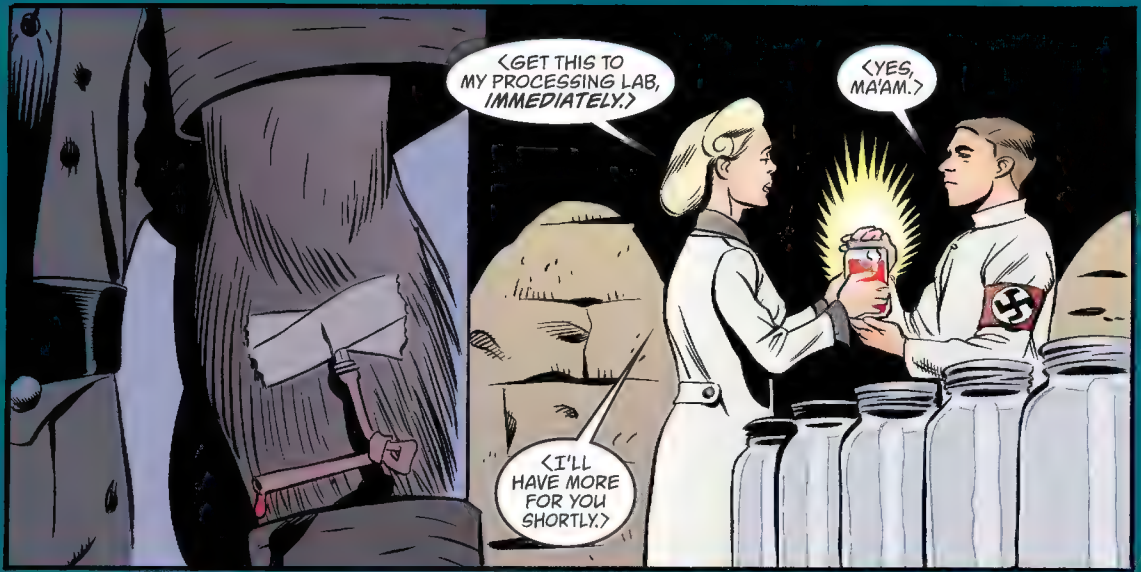


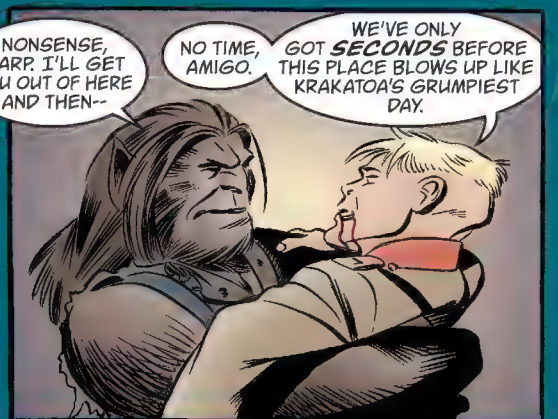
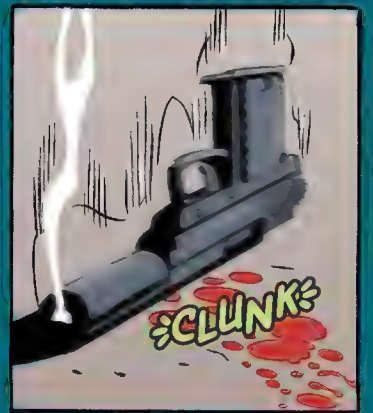
<SO
NOW WE WILL
HAVE OUR **OWN**
WEREWOLVES--
A **BATTALION**
OF THEM.>



<YOUR
BLOOD CONTAINS THE
LYCANTHROPIC
VIRUS.>

<IT WILL BE
A **SIMPLE** MATTER
TO DEVELOP A **SERUM**
FROM IT, WITH WHICH
WE CAN INFECT OUR
SELECTED SUB-
JECTS.>









THERE GOES THE CASTLE-- SO I GUESS WE ACCOMPLISHED OUR MISSION.

EXCEPT THAT NO ONE **SURVIVED** WHO CAN GET US BACK TO WHERE WE BELONG.



I CAN GET YOU BACK THROUGH YOUR OWN LINES.

BIGBY! YOU'RE ALIVE!



YOU THREE ALL THAT MADE IT?

EXCEPT SERGEANT SUPINSKI HERE. HE BOUGHT IT KEEPING THE JERRIES FROM FOLLOWING US BACK THROUGH THE TUNNEL.

AND ALPHABET'S SHOT UP PRETTY BAD, TOO. HE'LL NEED MEDICAL HELP SOON, OR--



I CAN GET YOU BACK, AND EVEN **SAVE** YOUR WOUNDED MAN THE WALK--BUT **ONLY** IF YOU PROMISE ON YOUR LIVES TO KEEP A SECRET OF MINE.



WHAT SECRET?

WHAT I'M ABOUT TO **SHOW** YOU, RIGHT NOW.

So that's how three of us lived to go home, raise normal families, grow old, and never tell the full tale of what we did, and what happened to us, and what we learned.

We moved at night, and always the giant wolf led us around the danger spots.

Sometimes he'd go off by himself to remove threats we couldn't avoid. Later he'd return with blood on his muzzle.

WHAT'S IN THIS BAG, BIGBY?

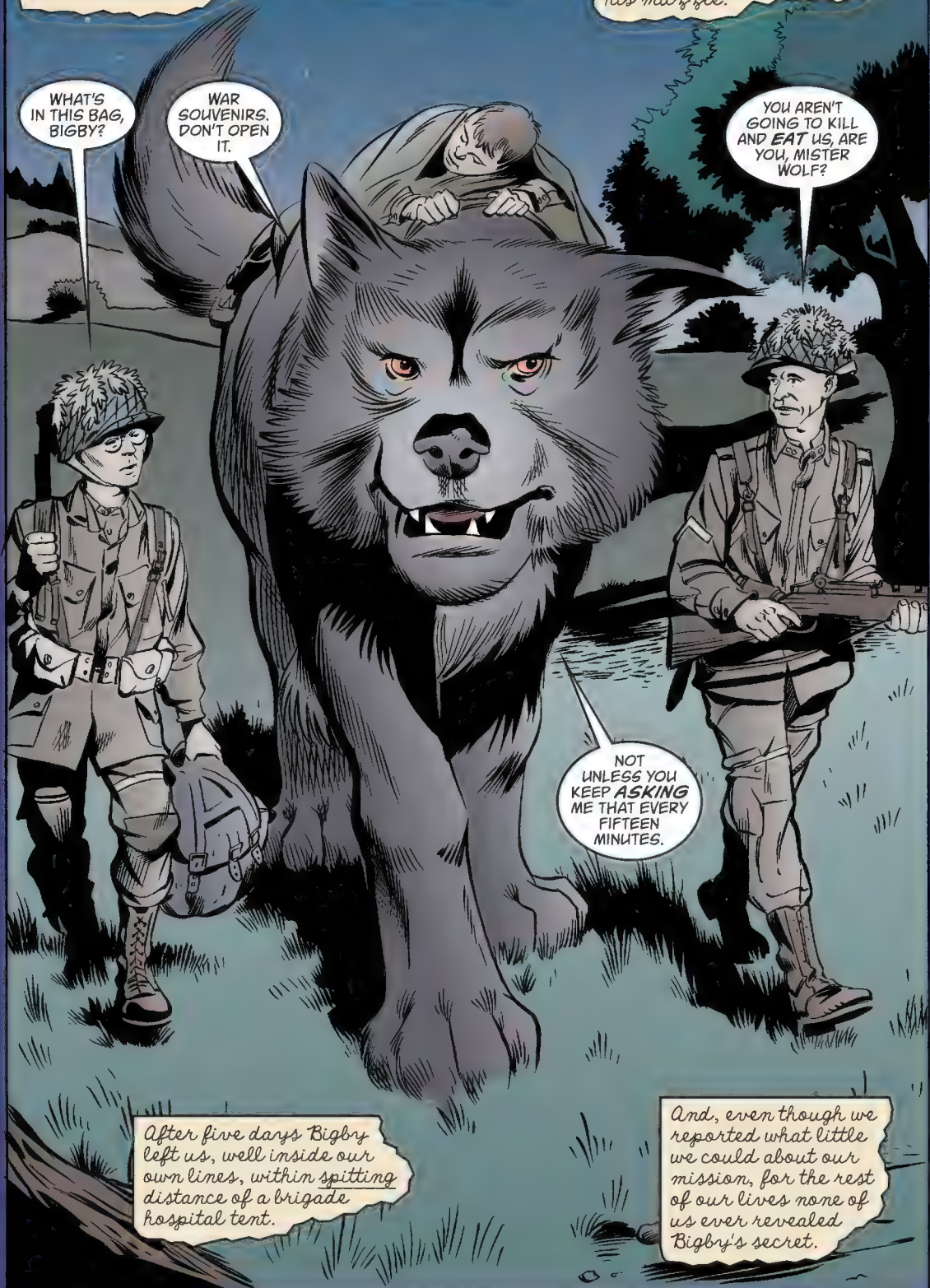
WAR SOUVENIRS. DON'T OPEN IT.

YOU AREN'T GOING TO KILL AND EAT US, ARE YOU, MISTER WOLF?

NOT UNLESS YOU KEEP ASKING ME THAT EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES.

After five days Bigby left us, well inside our own lines, within spitting distance of a brigade hospital tent.

And, even though we reported what little we could about our mission, for the rest of our lives none of us ever revealed Bigby's secret.





AND BACK IN THE PRESENT DAY...

BUFKIN, COME DOWN HERE FOR A SECOND.



HERE'S A NEW BOOK FOR THE STACKS.

I ASSUME YOU'LL FIND THE APPROPRIATE PLACE TO FILE IT.

CAN DO, GAFFER WOLF.



AND HOW'RE YOU DOING TODAY, FRANKIE?



I'M SORRY, BUDDY. WERE YOU SLEEPING?

YEAH, BUT THAT'S OKAY, BIGBY. I SLEEP TOO MUCH ANYWAY.



NOTHING MUCH ELSE TO DO, EXCEPT WHEN FLY-CATCHER, BLUE OR BUFKIN HAS TIME TO READ TO ME.



I TRIED TO TALK SNOW INTO LETTING ME PUT A TV IN HERE FOR YOU, BUT SHE WON'T HAVE IT.

NO, WE ALREADY TRIED THAT ABOUT TEN YEARS BACK, BEFORE MISS WHITE TOOK OVER IN THE TOP JOB.

IT WAS A DISASTER. BUFKIN KEPT GOING CRAZY WITH THE REMOTE AND NEARLY DROVE ME INSANE.

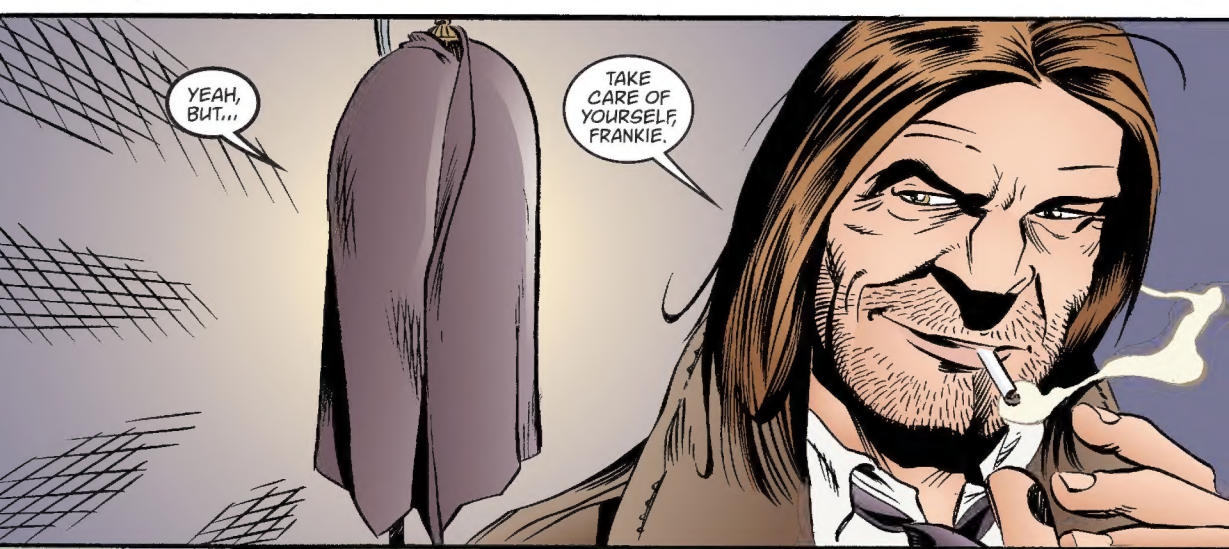
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, QUIETER IS GENERALLY BETTER.



PROBABLY SO. ANYTHING ELSE I CAN GET YOU?

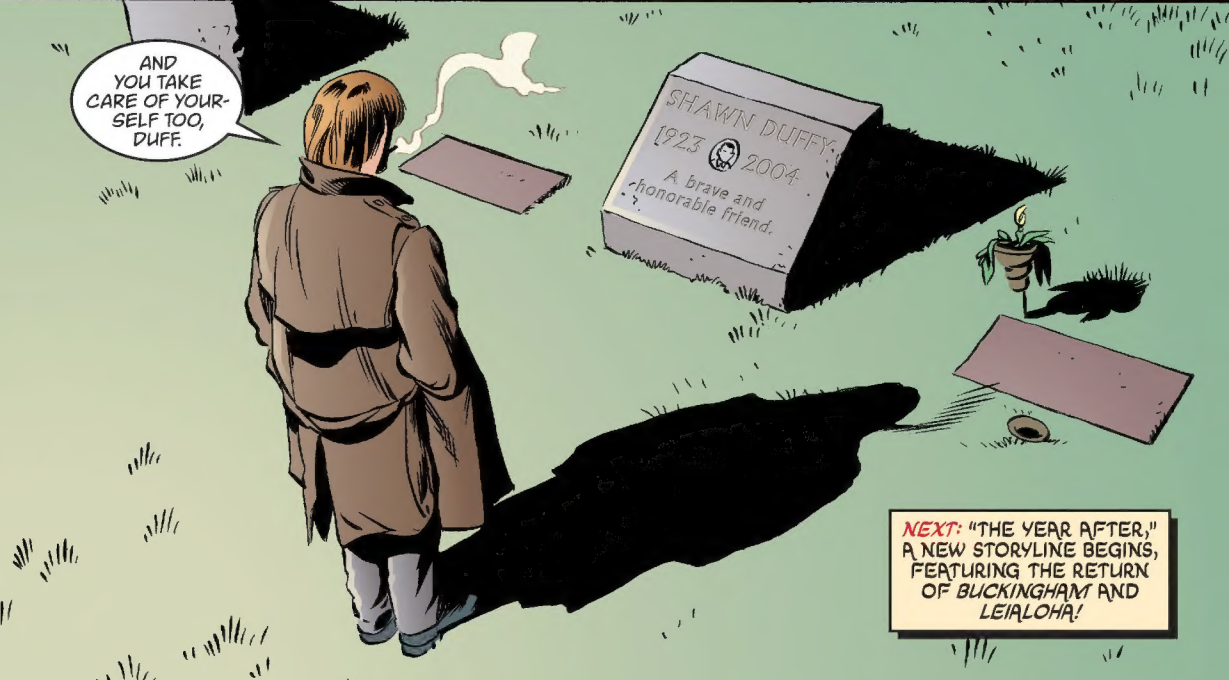
WELL, I'M AWFULLY THIRSTY, BIGGS.

NOW YOU KNOW THAT'S JUST PHANTOM THIRST. THE WATER WOULD JUST RUN OUT OF YOUR NECK AND RUST OUT THE BOTTOM OF THE CAGE AGAIN.



YEAH, BUT...

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, FRANKIE.



AND YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF TOO, DUFF.

SHAWN DUFFY
1923 2004
A brave and honorable friend.

NEXT: "THE YEAR AFTER," A NEW STORYLINE BEGINS, FEATURING THE RETURN OF BUCKINGHAM AND LEIALOHA!

❧ HISTORICAL NOTE ❧

The Frankenstein Castle actually exists (in ruins) above the Darmstadt/Eberstadt area of the Rhine river valley. Author Mary Shelley is known to have once visited the region, fueling reasonable suspicions that this is how and where she was inspired to write her famous novel. The castle was in ruins even then, but we've taken the storyteller's liberty of putting off the destruction of the castle until its fictional visitation by Bigby, Harp and the intrepid soldiers of Dog Company. The historical castle was indeed rumored to have a secret tunnel that emerged miles away, in the basement of a hotel in the village of Eberstadt. We moved the hotel up into the hills as a way to save space—in order to keep this tale down to two issues. Field Marshal Walter von Reichenau was a historical figure and did indeed die in a plane crash, on the way to Leipzig. As far as we know, though, it wasn't as a result of any OSS agent's activities. Sergeant Harp was also one of the many OSS agents who served behind enemy lines in the Second World War, but we could find nothing about his actual adventures. He was an interesting name on a distinguished list of brave men, and we borrowed him for this story. There was actually a "werewolf" resistance program in the final days of the Third Reich. These werewolves were Nazi regime remnants, many of them SS officers, who were organized to target all Allied forces, and the Germans who cooperated with them, for assassination. They sabotaged factories, power plants, and rail lines. They blew up police stations and government buildings, and they destroyed art and antiques that were stockpiled by the Berlin museum. Of course they weren't actual werewolves, but, in the fictional Fables version of our history, did some of Bigby's blood survive the destruction of the Frankenstein Castle to create such creatures? If so, it's a story for another time.

— Bill Willingham



And one production note: this two-part story was changed somewhat, from its original version, due to discovering, at the eleventh hour, that other stories, in various other mediums, had already covered some of the same material. For more information on this and other Fables background details, visit the official Fables Letters Page at: billwillingham.com.

— Bill

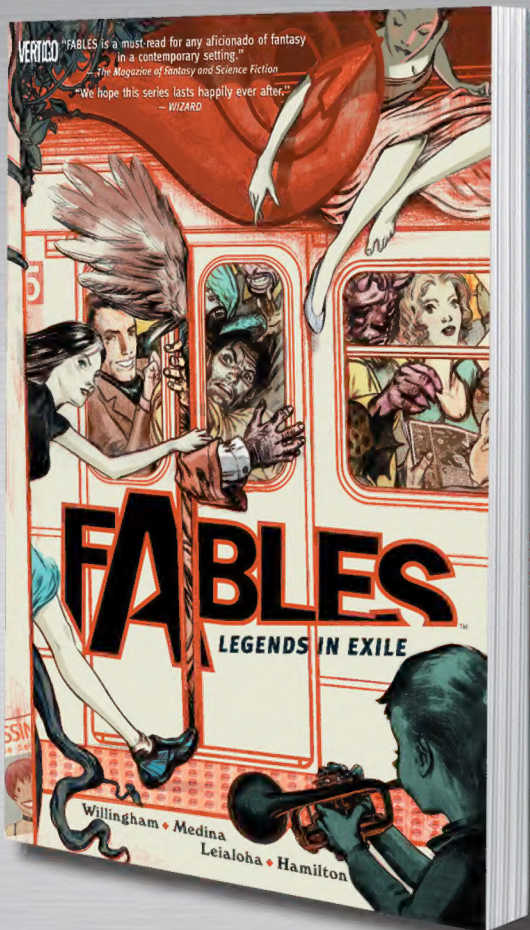
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BILL WILLINGHAM

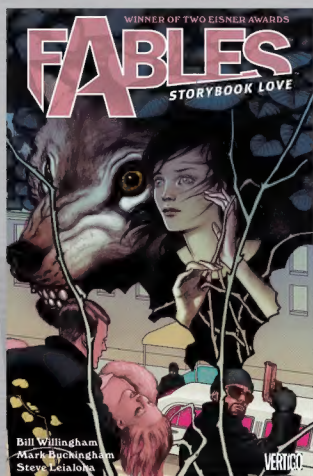
"[A] wonderfully twisted concept... features fairy tale characters banished to the noirish world of present-day New York."
– THE WASHINGTON POST



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- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)
- VOL. 8: WOLVES
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



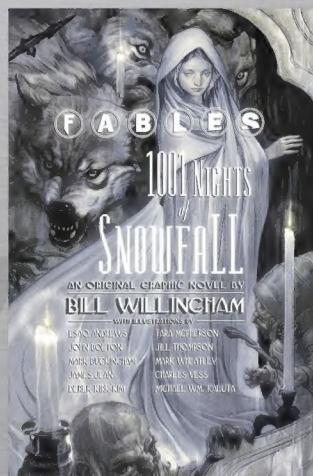
FABLES VOL. 3:
STORYBOOK LOVE



FABLES VOL. 6:
HOMELANDS

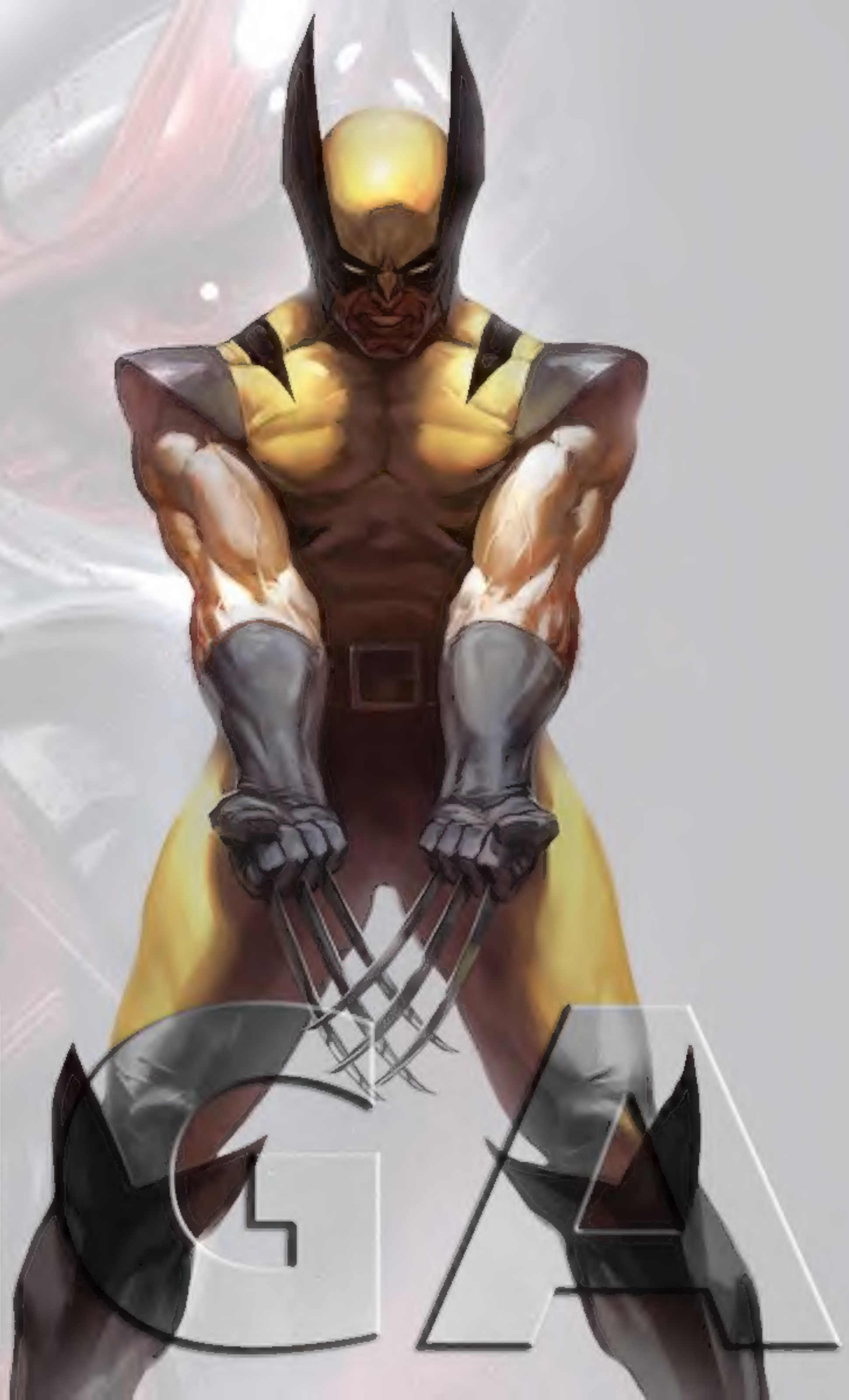


FABLES:
1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



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NATHAN